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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q77403

Kenji SERA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/657,196

Group Art Unit: 1621

Confirmation No.: 1621

Examiner: Thanhha S. PHAM

Filed: September 09, 2003

For: THIN FILM SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. United States Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0035774, published November 1, 2001.
2. United States Patent No. 4,872,010, issued October 3, 1989.
3. United States Patent No. 6,306,709, issued October 23, 2001.
4. United States Patent No. 6,191,435, issued February 20, 2001.
5. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 8-264798, published October 11, 1996 (with English abstract), previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement dated September 9, 2003.
6. United States Patent No. 6,353,244, issued March 5, 2002.

7. United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0088971, published July 11, 2002.
8. United States Patent No. 6,190,952, issued February 20, 2001.
9. European Patent Application Publication No. 0 614 226, published September 7, 1994.

One copy of above listed reference 9 is submitted herewith. Copies of above listed references 1-8 are not submitted herewith as they are either U.S. patents, U.S. patent publications, or have been previously submitted.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding European Search Report, dated March 2, 2006, which cites above listed reference 5 and indicates the degree for relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

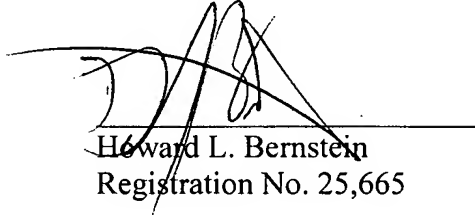
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/657,196

Atty. Docket No.: Q77403

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 5, 2006

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/657,196
Confirmation Number	1621
Filing Date	September 09, 2003
First Named Inventor	Kenji SERA
Art Unit	1621
Examiner Name	Thanhha S. PHAM
Attorney Docket Number	Q77403

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 2001/0035774	A1	11-01-2001	Kotani
		US 4,872,010	A	10-03-1989	Larson et al.
		US 6,306,709	B1	10-23-2003	Miyagi et al.
		US 6,191,435	B1	02-20-2001	Inoue
		US 6,353,244	B1	03-05-2002	Yamazaki et al.
		US 2002/0088971	A1	07-11-2002	Tezuka et al.
		US 6,190,952	B1	02-20-2001	Xiang et al.
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)


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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,


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